

First Connection

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs

August 1, 2018

Volume 12, Issue 8

First UMC Meal Ministry

The Meal Mission team is hard at work – organizing and prepping our very FIRST Community Meal Mission Outreach!!! As with all missions, it is going to take a lot of us working together to make this happen and your willingness to volunteer and/or donate is most appreciated. The nature of this ongoing project will include needs that continue to evolve and needs that are time sensitive – so if you can't help for the August meal, rest assured you will have more opportunities to help in the future. Please see below for the volunteer/donation needs we have for the first event:

Donations: We will have a donation board in the narthex for food donations and supplies. Please make sure when you take a note that you also mark it down on the clipboard.

Volunteers—We will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the Information Table. Some of the volunteer jobs that we are needing are:

Setup—4–5:15 p.m. (this will include setting up tables and chairs; posting signs on the property; making sure we have plenty of trash cans; drink containers and condiments out on the tables)

Meal Preparation—4–5:30 p.m. (this will include prepping of all food, cooking, and plating)

Serving—5:15-6:30 p.m. (this will include taking the plates from the kitchen and serving them to our guests)

Hospitality—5:15-6:45 p.m. (this will include walking around the gym, making sure people are comfortable, helping them to feel welcome and assisting them with additional needs if warranted)

Cleanup—5:30-7:15 p.m. (this is a shift that will start early and end when cleanup is over, including washing dishes as we go and packing leftovers if merited)

If you have questions, please contact Kristi Harris (kharris@bluespringsumc.org) or Brooke Roskop (broskop@bluespringsumc.org) in the church office (229-8108).

New Sermon Series

Getting in the Game! Growing a Faith Life that Can Change the World!

As a disappointing Royals season comes to an end, our attention is turning to football. What does it mean for us to be more than fans and instead become followers of Jesus Christ? Whenever you feel helpless, remember that you've got all the power you need to get in the game and make a difference in your world!

August 18/19: Practicing Prayer

August 25/26: Scoring Big Through Serving Well

September 1/2: Growing Through Giving

September 8/9: Passing Your Faith on to Others

First UMC's Mission Statement:
Making faithful, hopeful, loving disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



First Connection



Dear First Friends,

As summer is drawing to an end, I want to offer you a special invitation to join our VILLAGE literacy volunteers in this school year. As you'll see elsewhere in our newsletter, we are preparing for another great year working with children on their reading skills in the Blue Springs School District. Bishop Farr is encouraging every church in Missouri to partner with their local schools to offer literacy tutoring. He believes that we can have a significant impact on poverty in Missouri if we can increase the reading abilities of children. The great news is that our pilot program last spring was extremely successful! We had 25 volunteers in classrooms, affecting the lives of over 50 children in Blue Springs. Our goal for this new school year is to double that number of volunteers to 50 for the 2018-2019 school year. Won't you help us achieve this lofty goal? By giving one hour a week, you may change the course of a child's life.

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In fact, one of our goals with the transition to our new single-board governance model is precisely what you see above. By decreasing the number of people that must spend hours each month in administrative meetings, we hope to increase the number of people involved directly in hands-on ministry. Our new Leadership Council held its first official meeting in July, and the transition has gone very smoothly. We have been working together for a couple of months in preparation, training, and goal-setting. This Leadership Council has hit the ground running, and I believe that we have an extremely strong group of servant leaders who love Jesus and who care deeply about First UMC. If you have any questions for this group, I feel confident that any one of them would be glad to talk with you. Randy Williams is chair, and other members have nametags that identify them as Leadership Council members.

Finally, I want to take some time to offer a deep and sincere word of appreciation for the leadership of Bob Blaine. He served as Chair of our former Church Council, and his guidance was key to transitioning to this new Leadership Council model. Bob helped us over some bumps in the process, and his generosity of time and spirit enabled us to get us to where we are. In essence, Bob did a great job working himself out of a job! I am so grateful for all that Bob has given to our congregation through his years of service. Thank you, Bob, well done!

I look forward to being back home in Blue Springs after my vacation. I'll be back in the pulpit the weekend of August 11/12. In the meantime, I know that you are being blessed by the preaching ministry of Erika Braun.

Blessings,

July 14-15, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$9,147	
YTD One Fund	\$496,956	\$535,627
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	348	
Sunday School		
Children.....	23	
Youth.....	6	
Adults.....	111	
Total	140	
Sunday/Wednesday Evening Youth: 24		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

July 21-22, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$21,307	
YTD One Fund	\$518,262	\$544,447
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	312	
Sunday School		
Children.....	40	
Youth.....	0	
Adults.....	90	
Total	130	
Sunday Evening Youth: 4		
No Wednesday Evening Youth due to mission trip		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

July 28-29, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$37,913	
YTD One Fund	\$556,175	\$566,859
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	321	
Sunday School		
Children.....	36	
Youth.....	12	
Adults.....	111	
Total	159	
Sunday/Wednesday Evening Youth: 43		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

*First UMC Children's
Ministry*

Weekly Sunday School—Join us every Sunday morning at 9:15 and 10:40. There are classes for 3-year-olds and up. Nursery is available for all worship services, birth through two years old.

IMPACT YOUTH
ministry

Join us:

—Sunday mornings at 10:40 in room 112 for Sunday School! Fellowship Groups meet on Sunday evenings.

—and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for youth group in room 014!

All are welcome—students and parents!

First Connection

First Kids

Contact Michelle Mueller-Hinton at mmueller-hinton@bluespringsumc.org

Wee Singers and Children's Chimers

Power Praise Kids

Rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 9

Wee Singers is for children ages Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1. They meet on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in room 115. Contact Brooke Roskop at broskop@bluespringsumc.org.

Children's Chimers

Children in grades 2 through 5 have the opportunity to develop their musical skills through Children's Chimers (hand chimes). Chimers meet on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in room 154. Contact Liz Mueller at e.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net.

Power Praise Kids

Calling all 2nd-5th graders who love to sing, eat, and play! Power Praise Kids begins on Sunday afternoon, September 9, from 4-5 p.m. We will practice most Sundays and sing once a month at the beginning of the 9:30 service. We perform a musical at the end of April every year. Please come join us! For more information, call or email Linda Cox, 898-3608 or lindacox53@gmail.com

Impact Youth Ministry

Contact Erika Braun at ebraun@bluespringsumc.org

August:

The Youth have been messy! We celebrated with our annual Wacky Olympics on the last Sunday of July! We made a huge mess and had tons of fun! Then the Brewer family hosted us for our Back to Youth Bash which kicked off our new year! Those going into 6th grade got to join us for the first time and we made some awesome splashes!



We have many changes happening now with our new year! Youth on Wednesday nights is at 5:30p.m. now, Small Groups will be open to grades 6-12, every other Sunday night at 4 p.m., and a BRAND NEW High School Bible Study will be EVERY Sunday night at 5 p.m.! This is for grades 9-12 and it is an opportunity for them to dig a little deeper into their faith!

I am excited about everything coming up and can't wait to see how the rest of the year goes! We are already making Confirmation plans which starts in September! We are also starting the discussion early about Youthpalooza!

Look for more details soon and ask Erika if you have any questions!



HEALTH CONCERNS

Mary Arth	Doris Brooks	Linda Day
Marti Dietrich	Harry Eilert	Judy Gregston
Maxine Hall	Bob Hutchings	Larry Hillyard
Brenton Jones	Vicki Kerr	Gloria Kniffen
Gloria LaDue	Sandra Meinershagen	
Jean Moore	Wayne Ogilvie	Pat Parr
Chere Semple	Shirley Smith	Mary Stone
Bobby Tiffin	Steve Young	Karen Zymball

Aimee Rea-Scott, friend of Kathy Ford
 Alex Phillips, per Patty Grasinski
 Allen Klinger, per Ardith Dorris
 Baby Kian Jackson
 Beverly England, friend of Gwen Wheeler
 Bill and Jean Best, per Marisa Gilbert
 Chris Whippo, per Marisa Gilbert
 Chuck Keeter, per Mary Meeker
 Cliff Bradenburg, friend of Jim and Linda LaShure
 Dakota Sawyer, per Marisa Gilbert
 Jodie Gallagher, per Mike Gallagher
 Karen Gangestad, friend of Gwen Wheeler
 Kelly Campbel, per Roma Troxel
 Kelsey Kwapnoski, Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein's granddaughter
 Lester Williamson, per Jan Balcom
 Mandy Boone, friend of Kathy Bozarth
 Marilyn Callighan, Jean Moore's sister-in-law
 Matt Hendricks
 Michelle Brown, friend of Patty Grasinski
 Nancy Forth, per Jan Balcom
 Nieko Glesbrecht, per Marisa Gilbert
 Rita Thompson, per Jean Moore
 Robert Case, per Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein
 Sharon Bundy, per Gloria Kniffen
 Steve Blomme, friend of Chuck and Kathy Ford
 Sue Grinlinton, Kris Allen's sister
 Ted Patena, per Marisa Gilbert
 Teresa Hankins, per Marisa Gilbert

MILITARY

Sean Batulis	Brenton Jones	Jason Tisdale*
Tyler Byrd	Drew Kerber*	Randall Shaffer
Robert Gordanier	Ben Patillo*	Cole Sims
Tim Gorsline	Christian Schroeder	Ryan Stacy*
Henry Grubb*	Justin Schroeder	Jonathan Tucker
Rick Hansen	Randall Schroeder	Brandon Walls

Highlighted names—FUMC members *deployed overseas

SYMPATHY

To Phil Bachus on the passing of his sister.
 To Mary Arth on the passing of her brother, David Thaller, on July 4.
 To Fred Troxel on the passing of his great-nephew on July 7.
 To Andy and Roberta Booheister on the passing of Andy's sister, Esther.

JOYS

To Steve and Linda Cox on the birth of a grandson, Tucker Joseph Cox, on July 26.
 To Autumn Pacas and Marcus McBride on the birth of a daughter, Mia Faith McBride, on July 27.
 To Jim and Michelle Hinton on the birth of a grandson, Darby Kane James, on July 27.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Sunday, August 5</u>		
Disciple Class Informational Meeting	10:45 a.m.	117
Literacy Meeting/Training	3:00 p.m.	117
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys & Girls	4:00	014
High School Bible Study	5:00	014
<u>Monday, August 6</u>		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	150
<u>Tuesday, August 7</u>		
Tuesday Team	9:00 a.m.	Office
ROMEO Men's Lunch	11:30	Brewer's
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Wednesday, August 8</u>		
Impact Youth Group	5:30 p.m.	014
Men of Praise Rehearsal	6:30	150
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00	Sanctuary
Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00	103
<u>Thursday, August 9</u>		
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Friday, August 10</u>		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Saturday, August 11</u>		
Worship Service	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Youth to Christian Concert	5:30	Offsite
<u>Sunday, August 12</u>		
High School Bible Study	5:00 p.m.	014
<u>Monday, August 13</u>		
Leadership Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	103
<u>Tuesday, August 14</u>		
Tuesday Team	9:00 a.m.	Office
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Wednesday, August 15</u>		
Widows' Support Group	11:30 a.m.	Red Lobster
Impact Youth Group	5:30 p.m.	014
Men of Praise Rehearsal	6:30	150
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00	Sanctuary
Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00	103
<u>Thursday, August 16</u>		
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Friday, August 17</u>		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Saturday, August 18</u>		
Worship Service	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, August 19</u>		
Handbell Learning Session	8:15 a.m.	154
Disciple Bible Study	10:45	117
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys & Girls	4:00 p.m.	014
High School Bible Study	5:00	014
<u>Monday, August 20</u>		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	150
<u>Tuesday, August 21</u>		
Tuesday Team	9:00 a.m.	Office
Methodist Men's Lunch	noon	015
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym



First UMC Missions News



Community Services League

First UMC has an opportunity to help Community Services League!!! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 4.

In years past CSL has had another church come to their office and load all of the school supplies to deliver to our gym for the annual school supply store. That church is no longer able to do this. CSL NEEDS HELP on Saturday, August 4, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. It should only take two hours. We need volunteers to load your trucks, cars, vans, and the church bus with school supplies at CSL Blue Springs and unload them at our gym. If you have questions, please contact Brooke Roskop (broskop@bluespringsumc.org or 816-229-8108).

See you at CSL Blue Springs (200 SW 10th Street) on Saturday at 9:00!!

2018 Mission Trips

This summer, First UMC sent three mission teams out into the world to share God's love.

We sent a team to Costa Rica again and they helped with construction for a church in the countryside. They had a hot but good time with the residents of the area and got a lot done!!

The high school students who traveled to Nashville, Tn, had an interesting trip. They helped the extensive homeless population in Nashville in many ways while there.

Middle school kids went to St. Charles and helped at O.A.S.I.S. Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. They served hot dogs to food pantry clients and helped facilitate the thrift shop "Christmas in July" sidewalk sale.

Thank you for your prayers for these groups. They did great work.

Healthy Foundations

First UMC is gearing up for our Healthy Foundations ministry to provide weekend food packs for students at Brittany Hill Middle School and Valley View Middle School. Stay tuned for opportunities to donate and pack food this month.

First Connection



**Fast-Track Disciple 2 Class
Coming this Fall!**

We'll be offering Fast-Track Disciple 2 class this fall with a study of Genesis and Exodus.

We will have a quick informational meeting on Sunday, August 5, at 10:45 a.m. in room 117.

Class begins on Sunday, August 19, from 10:45 a.m.—noon in room 117. We will not meet on Labor Day weekend. The study should end by November 11.

We will start back on Sunday, January 13, with a study of Luke and Acts.

Please join us for the informational meeting.

If you have questions, please email Ronda Brewer at ronda.e.brewer@gmail.com.

Tuesday Team

Calling all handymen (and handywomen) who have availability on Tuesday mornings! Would you like to join with a group of others for a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings to do odd jobs around the church?

The next gathering will be Tuesday, August 7, from 9-11ish, beginning in the church office with coffee and donuts.

If you've got questions, check with John Rosendahl (224-5660). All skill levels are welcome!

Widows' Support Group

The Widows' Support Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, August 15, at 11:30 a.m.

Red Lobster
4328 S. Noland Road
Independence, Mo

Contact Joyce Maggard at 229-1300 or Carol Sartain at 229-9753 for reservations or more details.

Worship Courtyard Pavers

We are taking orders for the Fall installation of pavers in our memorial walkways. This is a special way to remember births, baptisms, weddings, confirmations or any special event. We also have a cancer memorial walkway and will be happy to place your paver there if requested.

If you would like to order a paver, please pick up an order form from the information table or the church office and submit order forms and payment to the church. Deadline for the Fall orders is August 24. If you have any questions, please call Diana Griffiths, 229-0340.

Handbell Opportunities

The Rhapsody Ringers have open slots to fill this coming fall. We practice on Wednesday evenings in room 154 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and typically play one service a month. A basic understanding of note reading and rhythms is helpful. Please contact Jenn Arth at jennifer_arth@yahoo.com for more information.



Interested in learning to play handbells? Come join us for a session in basic bell ringing. You will learn fundamental ringing techniques and have the chance to ring some simple bell pieces. No previous music reading experience is needed.

Upcoming sessions will be held on Sunday, August 19, from 8:15-9:15 a.m. and Sunday, August 26, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in room 154. Contact Jenn Arth at jennifer_arth@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending one of these sessions.



ONLINE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The challenges of caring for someone who is living with a disease or the aging process can feel overwhelming at times. Not only that, but often you are unable to make time in your schedule to attend a support group. Sally has created an online support group through Facebook, in which the privacy settings will allow only group members to see the posts that are written. The hope is to create a community for honest sharing and praying for one another in the joys and challenges of being a caregiver. If you, or someone you know, would like to join the group, "friend" Sally on Facebook and ask to join the group. She'll connect you to the group. If you've got questions, contact Sally (shaynes@bluespringsumc.org) or Carol Jo (cjlenning@bluespringsumc.org).



A special thank you to Murray and Sandy Whitehead, Kris Allen, Michelle Mueller-Hinton and Andrea Lyttle for their assistance in getting my home repair projects completed.

Sincerely,
Becky Batulis

Dresses and Shorts Update

First UMC just sent 90 dresses and shorts to Mozambique this week with a mission team from members of St. Luke's UMC. This year, First UMC will have sent 270 dresses and shorts with mission teams to Mexico, Costa Rica, and the current trip to Mozambique.



Before the end of the year, we would like to send more to villages in Nicaragua with Woods Chapel UMC if we can get enough completed by then. We can do this!

All donations are important, from one dress or a pair of shorts, to as many as you wish to sew.

First UMC thanks each and every one of you for your invaluable time and effort!

Contact Linda Carey at 228-6495.

Blessing of our Students and Teachers

We'd like to recognize our teachers and school employees on August 18-19. We will say a word of appreciation and offer a prayer for God to bless them and their students this school year.



We would like to list the names of teachers affiliated with our church on an insert in the bulletin that week. Students can bring their backpacks to Sunday school for a blessing that weekend.



If you are a teacher or school employee, please send an email to office@bluespringsumc.org so we can list your name and where you work.

Food Pantry Needs

We keep a small food pantry in the church office for those in need of food. We could use the following items:

- Canned Vegetables
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Jelly
- Canned Soup
- Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce

Donations can be dropped off at the church office during regular business hours.

First Connection

First United
Methodist Church

Blue Springs

Ministers

All members who have pledged to uphold First UMC with their prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness.

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes
email:
shaynes@bluespringsumc.org

Erika Braun
email:
ebraun@bluespringsumc.org

Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
and 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.—noon Friday

Church Office: (816) 229-8108
Church fax: (816) 229-6705

Email
office@bluespringsumc.org

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website
www.bluespringsumc.org

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Blue Springs UMC



August 1, 2018

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of Blue Springs
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Blue Springs, MO 64015

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Come Join the VILLAGE and Make a Difference!

The VILLAGE (Volunteers in Literacy, Learning, and Giving Enthusiastically) had a very successful launch this past spring. Volunteers went to five different schools, playing literacy games and reading with and to students in kindergarten—fifth grade. Each volunteer gave at least one hour a week to this commitment. Teachers, counselors, and principals all expressed their appreciation for our commitment to their students.

The VILLAGE people plan to continue their commitment in the fall, and we would love to have you join the group! **If you're still interested, please come to our training session scheduled for Sunday, August 5, 3-4:30 p.m. in room 117.**

You need to be a member of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs and complete Safe Sanctuary training (online through the Missouri United Methodist Conference) to participate. Plus, the school district requires a background check every year for all of us. Our goal for next year is 50 people who want to make a difference in kids' lives.

Fall Fun Fest

Attention all Pie Bakers – It is time to dust off your rolling pins and get ready for Fall Fun Fest, September 14 – 16!!! The sign-ups and donation forms will be in the lobby starting the weekend of August 11/12. Please consider preparing a pie or 2 or 10!

This year the church members will be joining the Men of Praise in the parade. We will be providing a shuttle service again from the First UMC parking lot to just outside our pie booth for the community.

This event is one of our LARGEST outreach events for this year – please plan on joining us!

